GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:605
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
INDIA MYANMAR THAILAND TIES
BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE;GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Ministers of India, Myanmar and Thailand have met recently at Yangon for promoting relations among the three countries;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether a highway connecting Moreh in India with Thailand passing through Myanmar has been planned to be built; and

(d) if so, the quantum of India`s investment in the project?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) to (d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a)-(d) OF THE ANSWER TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 605 TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.05. 2002

INDIA-MYANMAR-THAILAND TIES

A Ministerial Meeting on trilateral transport linkages was held in Yangon, Myanmar on April 5 and 6, 2002 among the Foreign Ministers of India, Thailand and Myanmar. The Meeting agreed on the following areas for cooperation:

a) construction of a highway from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand, through Bagan in Myanmar, to be completed within a timeframe of two years;

b) promotion of a highway from Kanchanaburi in Thailand to Dawei deep seaport in Myanmar, and shipping links to seaports in India as part and parcel of an integrated package;

c) promotion of trade, investment and tourism through facilitation of movement of goods and peoples across borders;

d) cooperative efforts on human resource development and transfer of technology; and

e) collective efforts at acquiring funds and advisory services from countries, regional organizations and international financial institutions for the transport linkages.

The Meeting agreed to set up two Task Forces - one on financing and the other on technical matter - to be chaired by Thailand and India respectively. The two task forces are expected to meet in June 2002. The costs and the quantum of India`s investment in this project will be known after the reports of the task forces.

The Meeting also agreed to hold annual Ministerial Meeting of the Foreign Ministers which shall propose, review and give policy guidelines to the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM). The SOM shall be held annually back-to-back with the ASEAN-India Dialogue SOI and shall oversee the cooperation mechanism. The next Ministerial Meeting shall be held in Brunei Darussalam.The next SOM meeting shall be held back-to-back with the ASEAN-India Dialogue SOM.

Cooperation between the three countries shall be supportive of and complementary to BIMSTEC, Mekong - Ganga cooperation as well as ASEAN-India Dialogue.